

Chicopee Register



Project Bread stays on the front lines of hunger

Chef Sam Icklan prepares lunch for students at Bowie Elementary School. Icklan, from Project Bread, has been assigned to Chicopee Public Schools to introduce healthier eating options to students.

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

As intimidating as the new coronavirus may be, it's failed to deter Project Bread from pursuing the mission of feeding youths across the state. The anti-hunger non-profit organization is valiantly working to ensure that children receive their daily dose of nutrition even as most of America comes to a halt.

"School meals are a vital resource for many students, particularly students who are lower income or who might not have reliable meals or access to food at home," said "Chef Sam" Icklan, Director of Project Bread's Chefs in Schools program.

"When we're posed with a situation where schools will be closed for weeks on end, especially at a time where people might be losing wages or

employment and are unable to provide, we want to ensure that the nutrition that families have come to rely on through school meals is available."

The team at Project Bread works closely with school districts throughout the commonwealth regularly during the year. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the group picked up the pace and is facilitating meal sites that enable families to safely acquire food.

Chicopee Public Schools is among the many districts that have benefited from a relationship with Project Bread. Icklan, who was assigned to Chicopee for the 2019-2020 school year, has not yet left the city.

Icklan has been in constant communication with Food Services Director Melanie Wilk. Thanks to the effort of nearly

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DEPT. OF HEALTH

2 test positive for coronavirus in Chicopee

Mayor Vieau issues new protocols following state order

By Tyler S. Witkop
Staff Writer

It took roughly one week for the city of Chicopee to join communities across the globe dealing with confirmed cases of the new coronavirus.

On Monday, city officials revealed Chicopee has not one but two cases of the virus, and following new orders from Gov. Charlie Baker, took drastic new measures to limit the spread of infections throughout

the city.

"Both patients are currently self-quarantined at home after being hospitalized," Chicopee Health Director Lisa Sanders said in a press release. "It is still unknown at this time where they may have come in contact with the virus. The Chicopee Department of Health workers are working day and night to identify cases of COVID-19 in our community and we ask that everyone stays socially distant, and report any symptoms to your Primary Care Physician right away."

Sanders said that with each confirmed case of the

novel coronavirus, officials will identify potential contacts, assess risk of exposure and follow appropriate public health guidelines and recommendations.

Earlier Monday, March 23, Baker issued a new order closing all non-essential businesses throughout the commonwealth and directing the Department of Public Health to issue a two week "stay at home advisory" for residents and employees of non-essential business. Chicopee Mayor John Vieau followed suit, requiring all non-essential establishments to the COVID-19 response to close doors until

noon Tuesday, April 7 at the earliest.

"I am saddened by the hearing of any cases in our city," Vieau said. "It is imperative that we are vigilant in social distancing, frequent hand washing, and disinfecting high traffic areas. Following the guidelines that our government has set forth will help us all to stay healthy. We are a proud, resilient community who will prevail."

International health officials from the World Health Organization to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control

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A Family Owned Company Serving Your Family!

Chicopee Register

Bellamy students hungry for education

Funding gap looms at Riverfront

Will raise a flag in neighborhood

School Committee seat remains vacant

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Tanking economy preserves public health

Chamber of Commerce offers resources during pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

With the coronavirus crisis in full swing, it can be easy to overlook the economic crisis that is occurring simultaneously. That is, unless, you are a recently laid-off worker or a business owner whose operation is shuttered indefinitely.

Unemployment is spiking across the country and Massachusetts is no different; last week, nearly 20,000 residents filed for unemployment on one day alone. Chicopee is among the many cities in the commonwealth that are being challenged by a situation that no one foresaw.

“We are anticipating that millions of workers are going to see their incomes fall from reduced work-hours, furloughs, which is a temporary loss of your job and [being] laid-off. Obviously, restaurants, bars and other small retail businesses are going to suffer,” said Julia Copoulos, executive director of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce.

Small businesses will likely assume the brunt of the consequences during the ongoing economic plunge. Rest be assured, city, state and federal officials are working in unison to minimize its impacts.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 18, applies to businesses with fewer than 500 employees and “expands employment, Medicaid,

“Reducing gatherings and restricting business activities will naturally shrink our economy, but all of that economic restriction is coming from the willingness of people to participate in social distancing. That’s a positive indicator of our overall social well-being as a community.”

- Julia Copoulos, executive director,
Chicopee Chamber of Commerce

food assistance and sick leave,” said Copoulos.

If approved by Congress, a stimulus bill is expected to deliver financial aid to residents across the country. In the meantime, individuals who have been laid-off as a result of COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for unemployment immediately, as benefits are dwindling.

“They’re saying that you should really file your claims online; that’s the quickest way to do it because of the increased volume of all the applications,” said Copoulos, who is paying close attention to a series of virtual meetings being facilitated by the state’s Department of Unemployment.

“It’s something that I’ve watched,” she continued. “It’s really helpful with understanding the system.”

Business owners who have closed their doors or are enduring significant revenue drops are encouraged to monitor their weekly cash flow projections to gauge how they will be affected over the course of 30 to 90 days. Financing loans are currently available through the Small

Business Administration.

“They’re low interest loans; up to \$2 million for businesses, and really the most important thing that I’m trying to drive home with people right now is that you should apply as soon as possible. We know these resources are available right now, and you want to get in line for those. It doesn’t mean you have to accept them if you get them, but you should get in line,” said Copoulos.

Cutting out all in-person initiatives, the Chicopee Chamber has shifted its focus entirely. Members of the nonprofit organization are active on a daily basis, working to educate city residents about their options.

“We are now putting all of our time and energy into being a source for up-to-date, relevant resources and assistance. We’re grateful to be an adaptable resource during this challenging time for businesses,” said Copoulos.

Fortunately, several bright spots are shining into the picture during this difficult time. Due to the global scale of the crisis, the United States has the unique ability to learn from hundreds of other communities to build on its well-informed response plan.

Copoulos identified another positive that has arisen from a sea of economic darkness.

“I think that the most encouraging thing right now is that people are taking on these economic losses to protect public health. Reducing gatherings and restricting business activities will naturally shrink our economy, but all of that economic restriction is coming from the willingness of people to participate in social distancing. That’s a positive indicator of our overall social well-being as a community; the idea that we’re taking these economic hits to protect our society and, ultimately, our public health,” she said.

Senate primary rescheduled to May

By Michael Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Voters in Chicopee precincts 7A, 7B, 8A and 9A will have to wait to choose their next state senator.

The Massachusetts Senate on Monday voted to delay the March 31 special election to Tuesday, May 19, according to the secretary of state’s office. Additionally, the state Legislature passed a bill that would expand access to absentee voting. As of Monday afternoon, the bill was awaiting Gov. Charlie Baker’s signature.

Two candidates are vying for the open seat, businessman John Cain, R-Southwick, and state Rep. John Velis, D-Westfield. The senate district includes four precincts of Chicopee, as well as 10 cities and towns west of the Connecticut River, ranging from Holyoke to Tolland.

As the coronavirus pandemic has prompted the closure of government offices across the state and advice that residents to avoid any gatherings and unnecessary travel outside the home, voter advocacy groups and some elected officials had pressed Secretary of State William Galvin to move the election date.

Debra O’Malley, the director of communications for the secretary of state, said the executive branch couldn’t act until the Senate, which had called the election in the first place, passed its own order, which it did on March 23.

O’Malley said there will be no changes to the ballots themselves. Absentee ballots that have already been cast will remain valid and will be counted on the new election day. The only race on the May 19 ballot is the state senate election.

Under the legislation passed by the state House and Senate on Monday, voters will have until Friday, May 8, to register for the special election. The legislation also allows anyone concerned about the



John Cain



John Velis

coronavirus to cast an absentee ballot, which can be done by mail. Under current state law, absentee ballots are available only to people who are unable to visit the polls on election day because of travel plans or for religious or medical reasons.

Voters interested in registering to vote or casting an absentee ballot should contact the city clerk’s office at 413-594-1466, or visit chicopeema.gov/180/City-Clerk.

The winner of the election will immediately take the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District seat vacant since January, when Donald Humason Jr. resigned from the Senate to take office as mayor of Westfield. Humason, a Republican, had represented the district since 2013.

Cain and Velis were the sole candidates for state senator in their parties’ primary elections, held March 3, alongside the presidential primary.

Whoever wins the May election will serve until the end of 2020. In a quirk of the calendar prompted by this week’s date change, the senator may have to file his re-election bid before being elected in the first place, as the state election calendar currently has an April 28 deadline for nominees to submit their nomination papers for the November 2020 election. The senator elected or re-elected in November would serve the standard two-year term.

NAMI conducts support groups via telephone during virus outbreak

While public buildings and social gatherings have shut down statewide to limit the impact of the new coronavirus, the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Massachusetts announced call-in capabilities for its Connection Support Groups.

Effective this week, folks will be able to teleconference Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. No password is required; participants need only call 508-206-8720.

For more information, email jmaguire@namimass.org.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. As soon as possible
5. Gateway (Arabic)
8. Doctors' group
11. Madder genus of plants
13. A team's best pitcher
14. Ancient Greek sophist
15. Go up
16. Neither
17. Bolivian river
18. Manila hemp
20. Comedienne
21. Gasteyer
22. British School
25. Surrenders
30. Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
31. Sun up in New York
32. Lead alloy
33. Eastern Asian plant

38. Rapid deployment force (abbr.)
41. Japanese warrior
43. Festivity
45. Interruptions
47. Nonsense (slang)
49. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
50. Calvary sword
55. French river
56. Global business conference (abbr.)
57. Afflicted
59. Con man's game
60. No (Scottish)
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Fish
63. Camera term (abbr.)
64. Impudence
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN
1. A continuous portion of a circle
2. Genus of seabirds
3. Infant's dining accessory
4. Native Americans from Arizona
5. Popular fruit
6. Poisonous plant
7. Scolded
8. Assists
9. Hand (Spanish)
10. Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
12. Basics
14. Cain and ____
19. Malaria
23. Indicates particular shape
24. Respiratory disease
25. Central Standard Time
26. Imitate
27. Golf score
28. A place to lay your head
29. Three cards of the same suit
34. Not in
35. Human gene
36. Ancient Chinese philosophic concept
37. French river
39. Thinks up
40. Type of geological deposit
41. Helps little firms
42. Area units
44. A device to remove
45. Secret political clique
46. Polite interruption sound
47. Foundation
48. Clare Boothe ____, American writer
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Resistance fighters
58. Speak disrespectfully of

City officials urge residents to stay at home

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

As the new and notorious strand of coronavirus, COVID-19, spreads into the heart of the commonwealth, no community remains unaffected. In the city of Chicopee, municipal and safety officials are communicating closely to maximize prevention efforts.

“It’s not a war with ammunition. It’s a war with a virus and it’s really changed the way that we do things,” said Councilor-at-Large James Tillotson.

Gov. Charlie Baker issued a “stay at home advisory” for the entirety of the state on March 24. Many residents are working from home, but Chicopee’s first responders can’t afford that luxury.

“We’re still fortunate enough to be fully staffed; all of our trucks and ambulances are fully staffed currently. We’re certainly hoping that it stays that way throughout this crisis,” said Fire Chief Dan Stamborski.

Most businesses in the city are temporarily shuttered, but the Public Safety Complex is up and running with extra focus being placed on sanitation.

Forced to put angst aside, first responders are ready to spring into action

when the call comes their way.

“We take this very serious, but it’s our job. For us, it’s business as usual, and we continue to respond to all medical calls in the city. We still respond to any emergency; be it a car accident or fire situation,” said Stamborski.

Ward 1 City Councilor Joel McAuliffe is passionately urging residents to adhere to Gov. Baker’s advisory. To stay safe, he recommends that one limit interactions with people who are not within his or her household, avoid groups, maintain six-foot social distancing and avoid daily routines that occur outside of the home.

“I would encourage people to take this very seriously,” he said. “This is a public health crisis unlike anything I’ve seen in my lifetime and most people have seen in their lifetimes. The only way we’re going to get through it is if people take this seriously and are responsible with their own actions.”

Tillotson, a long time municipal official, has witnessed a wide collection



Ward 1 Councilor
Joel McAuliffe



Councilor-at-Large
James Tillotson



Fire Chief Daniel
Stamborski

respond to emergency calls during this time of uncertainty.

“We’re trying to take every precaution that we can,” said Stamborski. “We take direction from the CDC; we also have a continual flood of information from the International Association of Firefighters and MEMA. We follow their guidelines to a tee. The Mayor’s Office is also being very proactive, trying to do the right things things to protect the community. So far, it seems to be working.”

McAuliffe complimented the Governor’s Office for “providing guidelines for what we should be doing on the local level.” He also shed light on the important role that state and federal politicians are playing during the crisis and recommended that residents take notice of their actions.

“Communication is of the upmost importance. We, as a municipality, are quite frankly reliant on guidance from the state, and the state, in many regards, is reliant on communication from federal government,” said McAuliffe. “This is why it’s so important that the people we elect and put into positions of power; these are the people who rise to the occasion, or in some instances, don’t rise to the occasion in situations of crisis.”

Residents create a political program in Western Mass.

Longtime friends offer local perspective via Facebook Live

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

When the novel coronavirus subsides and excitement surrounding this year’s Presidential Election ramps up, two longtime friends will renew their commitment to offering residents a local perspective on national politics.

“State of the Race” is a Facebook Live program co-hosted by Ward 1 City Councilor Joel McAuliffe and Joshua Clark, a social studies teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. The program was established in 2016 and originally aired on WSKB, which broadcasts from the campus of Westfield State University.

“There’s sort of a sense that we’re providing something that other news outlets aren’t in the sense that anyone can watch MSNBC or CNN, but we’re providing something for our local audience.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joel McAuliffe (left), Ward 1 city councilor, and Joshua Clark, social studies teacher at Chicopee Comp., broadcast their political talk show “State of the Race” on Facebook Live. The program offers local perspectives to local, state and national politics.

It’s geared a little bit for a Western Mass. audience in that sense,” said Clark.

The show was put on hold following the 2016 election, but the initiative was brought back into the fold several months ago. “State of the Race” made its unofficial return when it aired on Facebook Live from Manchester, New Hampshire in February during the New Hampshire Primary Elections.

“We simply take a look

at election results and how things are happening on any given night and break it down and talk about basically the state of the race. We provide opinion commentary, but it’s a chance for people locally to chime in too and bring some political talk on a local level to Western Mass.,” said McAuliffe, who joked that the program is “the No. 1 rated political talk show in Western Mass. because it’s the only one.”

In addition to sharing their own insights, Clark and McAuliffe have welcomed a number of guests onto the show. In 2016, surrogates from both the Clinton and Trump campaigns made appearances.

“We had some tremendous guests,” said Clark. “We’ve been very fortunate to have news reporters who are on the trail with the candidates and people who have been in the room with the candidates themselves. You can’t really manufacture the perspectives that they bring to the program.”

As an educator, Clark has used his experience with the program to the benefit of his students. He explained how the “opportunity to personally interact with the process” translates to the classroom.

“Our trip to New Hampshire was great in the sense that when the students are talking about particular candidates, I can tell them what the mood was like in the room. It’s different than seeing it on TV,” he said.

McAuliffe noted that he brings the “political per-

spective” to the program while Clark enlightens viewers with his “historical knowledge.” Regardless of the audience, Clark doubled down on the idea that collaborating with a friend is an enjoyable task.

“It’s a very fun endeavor. Whether we’re on the air or not, Joel and I are always having some kind of conversation about politics, whether it’s local or national. The fact that there’s sort of this audience listening in on that does not really change the conversation at all,” said Clark.

On account of COVID-19, the two elected to suspend the program

for the time being. It will, however, return to Facebook Live, which Clark believes could occur sooner than later.

“Obviously, right now the coronavirus is a concern that everyone is living with, but it is entirely possible that we could do the show remotely and we don’t need to be together,” he said. “We’re thankful for technology in that sense, but as long as there’s primaries and stuff happening on the campaign trail, we will be doing the show. When it gets closer to November, I can certainly imagine that we’ll be getting ready for sure.”

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OFF THE BEAT AND TRAIL

Keeping the world at a distance

Turn on the TV or radio and the phrase of the hour seems to be “social distancing.”

It’s an interesting phrase, especially for us humans, a species Aristotle once called “a social animal.” While it’s understandable that amid a new and potentially life-threatening pandemic health officials would encourage individuals to limit their physical contact in order to keep the spread under some semblance of control, it also seems to fly in the face of what we – particularly those of us born before the mid-’90s – have been accustomed to doing our whole lives: make connections and personal relationships.

Many would agree it’s often easier to get business done one-on-one, face-to-face. Now, such business is, well, to be avoided (and excuse the expression) “like the plague.” It’s both a wise and advisable recommendation. And it will, hopefully, save many lives. Assuming, of course, we all take those words to heart.

Being alive for this pandemic is certainly a surprise. While not altogether unforeseen, I, as I imagine many people, never fully expected nor fully understood what it would mean. I am fortunate that my favorite places still exist.

Personally, I feel fortunate in these challenging and uncertain times. In the course of my lifetime I have always tended to maintain social distance. For the most part, anyway. Large crowds or parties aren’t typically my thing, unless it’s on the ski slopes or at a community fundraiser. Even then, I typically find a small group of people I know fairly well and stay there. I prefer more intimate settings.

The nice part about me maintaining a six-foot distance from my fellow humans is that by and large, I do. And, my favorite activities lend perfectly to isolation. I mean, there are times when you do fish elbow to elbow, like during the shad run along the Chicopee or Connecticut rivers, or the salmon run in New York. But those are exceptions. Most days on the water, no one likes seeing another human being cast within 100 feet of you. It takes away from the escape of the real world and the feeling, real or imagined, that we are connecting to the natural world in a unique and intimate way, without many modern influences.

Last week, I decided to take a walk behind the house and see what was new in the matter of days it had been since my last adventure. It didn’t take long. Just 20 yards into the woods from the edge of one field maybe an hour before sunset, while my head was down looking for tracks or other

See **TRAIL** page 5

POETRY

LESS MOPING, MORE HOPING

By Marge Jesberger
Chicopee

HOPE is ...

... a medical breakthrough
... the birth of new born
... an empty page, a blank canvas
... the desire for a positive outcome
... the start of a brand new day
... our next generation
... a glimpse into the future
... seeing the light at the end of the tunnel
... the opposite of “hopelessness”
... expecting the unexpected.



Tyler Witkop

GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



Can marinating chicken nuggets help with a hot topic?

“What? How can marinating chicken nuggets relate to today’s hot topics?” Breathe. Hug your mug. Relax.

Let’s prep some “food for thought” which means anything giving us something to think about – to figuratively digest – for our brains to process. As our brains marinade and steep these thoughts, this process enriches these morsels into internal truths with external value.

“Really?” Yes, “food for thought” is a processing method that we do every day without even realizing it.

Hmm. Could rural roots help grow “food for thought?” Could small-farm life experiences bring nurturing applications to exactly where millions of families find themselves now?

Could farmland’s domestic hens hatch tidbits of truth? Could farm-life lessons from inside a hen’s pen, help with today’s medically-mandated isolation and incubation situations? Yes.

Often, when digging deep into rural roots, sim-

ple, well-grounded, life-applications are discovered, observed and learned. As nature’s instincts occur, basic life-producing and life-sustaining evidences happen

Nestled in New England, two small farmlands, both with hard-working, bi-vocational families of two different national origins, were separated only by a stonewall. Each family lived off what they raised. Each shared their abundance. One farm raised hundreds of White Rock chickens, eggs, fruit trees, and acres of vegetable gardens. The other farm raised a family Jersey cow, cattle, pigs and vegetables for canning. A barnyard mix of Rhode Island Red hens, (with an ornery rooster,) ducks, and a nanny goat were often corralled by a black Labrador Retriever.

How can chicken nuggets be relevant to today’s COVID-19 pandemic?

Chicken nugget No. 1: On the neighboring farm, hundreds of White Rock hen’s fertilized eggs were hen-house safe under a warm, encased, protected brooder,

with warm lights on during incubation for 21 days. Incubation develops growth and maturity both internally and externally. Food for thought: Being incubated at home can be a time of relational nurturing, personal growth and educational development. Incubation with students, spouses and with seniors can bring inter-generational times of caring, sharing and safe keeping.

Chicken nugget No. 2: On our small farm, one half-dozen Rhode Island Red setting hens found isolated places for nesting over their eggs. Brooding hens only leave their nest to eat once a day. They stayed in place. Only moving occasionally, covering their eggs to ensure constant warmth. Food for thought: When healthy isolation is protective, with a specific purpose and focus it can yield dozens of eggs-cellent benefits.

Chicken nugget No. 3: Laying hens, of all breeds, produce white or brown shelled eggs. Although the

See **COOMBS** page 5



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for providing meals during school closures

To the editor:

I want to thank whoever is responsible for providing the free lunch and breakfast take-home bags for the children while Chicopee schools are closed during the coronavirus. I was pleasantly surprised at the quality and selection of the food provided. I am a grandmother of four school-aged children here and I always hear from the older grandchildren how horrible school lunch is. Well, after ob-

taining food for the one day, I was equally amazed at how quickly the food disappeared. Hats off to everyone involved! Also, I do not know where the brown bag of groceries came from that were given to me during pickup. What a wonderful gesture. I would like to thank all of the people who were involved. I think they need to know that they made a difference today.

Katherine Mongue,
Chicopee

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: **The Chicopee Register**, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The *Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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GUEST COLUMN

Hoarders and helpers have emerged with the COVID crisis

Be one of the ‘good guys’

By Rebecca Weber
Guest Columnist

Watching hoarders as they empty the shelves of supermarkets, grocery stores and pharmacies as COVID-19, the coronavirus pandemic, takes its toll on daily life in our communities, it is easy to assume that a crisis brings out the worst in people. But, the fact is it can bring out the best in us, as well.

Take the story of a pair of brothers in Hixson, Tennessee, who sought to corner the market for hand sanitizers, antibacterial wipes and face masks in the early days of the potentially deadly disease. The New York Times reported that during the three days after the first death was announced on Feb. 29 one of them set out on a 1,300 mile road trip through Tennessee and Kentucky filling a U-Haul truck with

the loot. The other brother stayed home listing the stuff on Amazon at exorbitant prices as high as \$70.

As Times reporter, Jack Nicas, put it in his article: “To him, ‘it was crazy money.’ To many others, it was profiteering from a pandemic.”

The good news is that the brothers got their comeuppance. Tennessee’s Attorney General was quick to issue a cease and desist order and Amazon quickly shut them down leaving the boys sitting on nearly 18,000 bottles of hand sanitizer with no way to unload them at a profit.

Meanwhile, there are heartwarming stories of kindness that have begun to emerge throughout the country about neighbors helping neighbors. Many are taking to social media to rouse the good guys to act at this time of crisis.

One woman on Facebook posted a notice offering to shop for seniors in her community and neighboring communities

who are house-bound as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. Caring messages and posts are showing up throughout the social media world. They offer to provide caregiver services for those who might need it and necessities such as medical supplies.

One out-of-towner contacted a deli in Detroit and put up cash for a take-out order for a “worthy charity or person [all your call].”

Here are a few things that you can do to help during the COVID-19 crisis:

- There are plenty of elderly neighbors in your communities, individuals and couples who might, for all intents and purposes, be shut ins at a time like this. Check in on them and help them on a regular basis. Offer to help them with chores and shopping, for example.
- If there are neighbors who need medical attention, offer to help them get in touch with a teledoctors via the Internet as in-person visits to medical facilities are

being discouraged.

- Schools throughout the country are shutting down in order to contain the virus, schools that were providing meals for their students. Get together with your friends and neighbors to find ways to ensure the kids get something healthy to eat.

– Help support local food banks and places in your community that provide shelter for the needy. You might also consider helping out neighbors whose employment has been disrupted as a result of the virus by helping them to purchase necessities.

In other words, become a good guy and come to the rescue if you are able. Don’t be a hoarder; be a helper.

Rebecca Weber is the CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, a 2 million member senior advocacy organization. For more information, visit www.amac.us.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Journalism scholarships available through NENPA; deadline Friday

Aspiring journalists are encouraged to apply for a New England Newspaper and Press Association scholarship through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England.

High school seniors and college students studying and acquiring work experience preparing them for a career in journalism are eligible to apply.

To qualify, students must be a resident of New England, be a high school senior or college undergraduate studying journalism or a related field, and have

GPA of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate a serious interest in journalism by sending a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation and a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper or similar publication or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.

The deadline for applications is March 27.

For more information or applications, visit nenpa.com/students/scholarships.

Valley Press Club scholarship applications due April 17

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Press Club will award up to six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut pursuing a career in journalism.

The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican newspaper and administered by the club, is for students living within the newspaper’s circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News and administered by the club, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and au-

thor, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield area, planning careers in journalism.

The Al Jaffe Scholarship, funded by Mr. Jaffe, the Valley Press Club’s first scholarship recipient in 1964, who retired in 2015 as vice president of talent negotiation and production recruitment at ESPN, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism or sports journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant’s high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at www.ValleyPressClub.com, high school guidance offices, or by emailing NTassinari@TheBigE.com.

Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089 or electronically to NTassinari@TheBigE.com. The deadline for submissions is April 17.

TRAIL from page 4

surprises, I heard a familiar sound. As my body stopped and eyes glanced down, an eruption of feathers and a slight whistle emerged from next to a tree in the muddy, leaf-strewn woods next to the Scantic River. My head snapped up to see the big-bodied woodcock female zig-zag through the thick, thorn-covered tangle and land in a brier patch only 30 yards from her original post.

It warmed my heart and tickled my senses to see her in the spring. She, like me, did a great job at keeping distance from others to see another day. Though, I suspect she was setting up waiting for the right man with the perfect dance to win her heart (I can be a buzzkill).

Woodcock tend to be solitary birds, except during the spring mating season and annual fall migration. But even when they congregate they don’t form large

groups. Unlike quail that can form coveys of 10 or more birds, it’s rare to find more than five woodcock in about 100 yards of prime cover, rarer still to find two together.

The hunter in me wanted more, so I picked my way carefully through the thorns so as not to ruin another shirt and pair of jeans. It took only a minute or so. When I approached the bush from which she sought refuge, once more she burst from the leaves and meandered through the thorns, vines and young maples, landing close to the field edge. This time, I was happy leaving her alone. After all, she was only the third I’ve seen behind the house in my lifetime of romping around back there.

It felt magical to share an intimate moment with a such a beautiful bird, that like me, appreciates its solitude. Hopefully, she and I will share more memories this spring and fall. From a distance.

COOMBS from page 4

exterior has different colors, the inside is the same: the egg yolks and egg whites contain valuable protein and nutrients. Chicken meat is dark and white. Chicken nuggets are shaped pieces of ground, blended, high-protein, nutritious meat. Food for thought: Human exteriors may be distinctively different. Basic human interiors are similar.

Certainly the COVID-19 virus gives cause for great concern and cautions. Homes, educations, careers, businesses, hobbies, sports, lifetime celebrations and events, sports, have all been temporarily put in incubation for life-saving reasons. During these times of this protective iso-

lation, home-schooling and many levels of online education are nationwide. Working from home is helping families stay safe and virus free.

Every day, frontline heroes are protecting, serving and keeping safety a priority wherever we live, worship, work and study. These heroes are behind-the-scenes, on-the-roads and working at counters and cash registers, helping keep food, medicines, and health care needs available.

Yes, nationally and globally, COVID-19 is a simmering hot topic. Hopefully, marinating and serving this working, small-farm view passed your chicken nuggets taste test?

BREAD from page 1

80 district staff members, 13 of Chicopee’s 15 schools have been transformed into meal sites, which operate daily from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Right now, [contributing employees] are superstars in my eyes; they’re really heroes. Those who are able to be showing up and stepping up,” said Icklan. “It’s an unprecedented time that we’re living in right now, and I feel that these meals are even more important for the kids to ensure that they can continue to have reliable access to food.”

More than 330 meal sites are currently operational in the Commonwealth. Project Bread has created an online map that lists each site and can be viewed at ProjectBread.org.

Icklan discussed another important resource, the Food Source hotline, which can be reached by dialing 800-645-8333.

“It’s a toll-free number that is staffed by our Food Source Hotline counselors,” he said. “They help connect people to SNAP benefits, navigate that process and they help families and individuals connect with food access resources in their

communities. If organizations in their communities are offering a food pantry, a meal site or a food bank, the hotline can help people find that.”

The hotline is available in 160 different languages. An additional line is available for individuals who are hearing impaired; Project Bread designed the resource to be convenient for all those who use it.

Icklan reiterated that a vast number of students rely schools to provide both breakfast and lunch each day; some districts even offer dinner. In these extraordinary times, action must be taken, and Project Bread has no plans of stopping.

While the coronavirus has forced millions of people to stay at home and continues to leave its mark, the nonprofit continues to aid countless districts across the state to positively impact children in need.

“Even as folks are working from home and our office is closed, Project Bread continues to be present and working to connect people with these vital resources. We’ll keep responding to each changing development as they come up,” said Icklan.

Baystate seeks donations of personal protective equipment

SPRINGFIELD – To help address community needs in response to the new coronavirus, Baystate Health is asking for donations of personal protective equipment from all available sources.

PPE sought include gloves, gowns, surgical masks, face shields, goggles and N95 masks. Officials note at this time Baystate is not able to accept hand-sewn masks.

Baystate Health will determine whether the supplies donated can be utilized by clinicians.

“We greatly appreciate all donations and thank you for your commitment to keeping our patients, providers and community well and safe,” Shelly Hazlett, Baystate communications manager, said.

Hazlett said folks may also donate to the Baystate Health Fund, which provides resources that may be used immediately where the need is greatest, and where donations can be of most use.

Those looking to make donations of PPE are asked to call 413-794-6552 or email covid19ppe@baystatehealth.org. Those interested in making donations to the Baystate Health Fund may do so online at baystatehealth.org/Giving.

Community Foundation establishes \$1M COVID-19 response fund

SPRINGFIELD — The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts announced the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley has been established with a lead gift of \$1 million from MassMutual.

Along with MassMutual’s gift, CFWM is contributing \$500,000 to the Response Fund. Big Y, Easthampton Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank/Northampton Cooperative Bank and PeoplesBank have also committed to contributing to the fund. Other area businesses and philanthropic organizations are being encouraged to contribute to the fund, as is the general public.

“The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is placing an extraordinary burden on families and individuals in the Pioneer Valley,” Katie Allan Zobel, president and CEO of the Community Fund, said. “Business, philanthropy and community organizations are coming together to establish this response fund to support those who are in need. It’s another example of our region’s extraordinary generosity and community commitment.”

Hosted by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the COVID-19 Response Fund will provide flexible resources to Pioneer Valley nonprofit organizations serving populations most impacted by the crisis, such as the elderly, those without stable housing, families needing food and those with particular health vulnerabilities.

Funds initially will be given to existing community-based organizations who currently serve vulnerable populations and who are best able to identify those requiring crisis services.

Zobel said the fund will be flexible in responding to current needs and as unforeseen needs arise in the community.

Those interested in making a gift to the fund should visit <http://communityfoundation.org/coronavirus-donations/>, or contact the Community Foundation at donorservices@communityfoundation.org.

Elms College to conduct classes online through spring semester

As a precautionary measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College of Our Lady of the Elms will move all classes online for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester, effective March 23, College President Harry E. Dumay recently announced.

“The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff are our highest priorities,” Dumay said. “As this unprecedented crisis and state of emergency continues to unfold, campus leadership has determined that the best course of action to ensure the safety of Elms College constituents and the wider community will be to move all classes completely online for the rest of the spring semester. This change is for all programs and all locations.”

Dumay added that if conditions drastically improve in the coming weeks, campus leadership may revisit the decision and could transition classes back to campus after ample notification to students, faculty and staff.

All academic, athletic, and co-curricular on-campus events have been canceled for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Students who have off-campus educational activities, including nursing clinicals, student teaching, social work field placement, CSD practicum, internships, etc., will receive specific updates directly from their dean or division chair, the college announced.

Students with campus employment as a graduate assistant or a student employee, are asked to contact their supervisor for further guidelines and instructions.

Residence halls will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Students who have been allowed to remain on campus due to exceptional circumstances will continue to do so. Resident students will be expected to move out of the residence halls by April 1. Students will receive an email from residence life with the check-out procedures and options.

As of March 18, there have been no reported cases of coronavirus within the Elms community. Elms College officials communicate regularly with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and also have a multidisciplinary Health Emergency Preparedness Committee monitoring the situation.

Students and their families may find the latest information about Elms College’s virus-related policies and frequently asked questions online at www.elms.edu/coronavirus.

Elms welcomes new staff members

The College of Our Lady of the Elms announced the appointment of three new directors to its staff: Michael Crawford, the director of diversity and inclusion; Andrea Holden, the director of alumni relations; and Pablo Madera, the director of public safety.

As director of diversity and inclusion, Crawford is committed to the holistic development of students within and beyond the classroom via empowerment, education, support and advocacy. He has experience in diversity programming and academic support in higher education at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, the University of Connecticut, nonprofit organizations, and as an independent consultant. Most recently, he was a research associate in a culture and mental health disparities lab at the University of Connecticut. He also has extensive experience with various social justice and college preparation initiatives for vulnerable populations, first-generation and low-income students, and diverse populations.

Holden, as director of alumni relations, develops initiatives that increase alumni engagement and also advance the goals of the college. She has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, serving in a variety of roles within student affairs, including campus programs, campus center management, new student programs, leadership, and residential life. Most recently, she was student engagement specialist for the dean of students at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick, Rhode Island, and the director of student activities, involvement and leadership, at Wheaton College in Norton.

As director of public safety, Madera manages the safety measures for the entire campus, as well as the administration of safety policies and protocols. Madera is a 37-year veteran of the Ludlow Police Department, where he progressed from patrolman to sergeant to lieutenant and, for the past seven years, served as the department’s chief of police. He served as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Western New England University for 23 years and also spent time consulting on multicultural awareness issues and policing.

To learn more about the college, visit elms.edu.

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Sports

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ALL-STAR AWARDS

Lusitano Club honors soccer all-stars

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The 31st annual Lusitano Alumni & Fans (LAF) All-Star High School Soccer Player Awards Night was held at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow on March 8.

The guest speaker was John Gibson, who has been the women's soccer coach for the past 20 years. Gibson, a native of London, England, earned his 200th career victory at Springfield College in the fall of 2015.

One high school soccer player from each of the divisions was selected by the head coaches as the 2019 Player of the Year.

The Division 3 boys Player of the Year is Simba Pelletier from Pope Francis High School.

The Division 3 girls Player of the Year is Juliana Dickinson from Hampshire Regional.

The Division 4 girls Player of the Year is Nora Young from Granby High School.

"It's awesome to have been selected as the Division 4 girl's Player of the Year," Young said. "I wouldn't have been able to receive this award without the help of my teammates and coaches."

Young completed her outstanding high school soccer career with more than 100 career points (Goals & Assists). She was also a member of the Lady Rams varsity basketball team and became the school's all-time leading scoring in the final game of the regular season.

"I love both sports equally,"



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Brennan Dort represented Chicopee High School at the LAF Awards Dinner on March 8.

Young said. "I've been playing soccer and basketball since I was very little. I thought about playing soccer in college, but basketball was my first choice. If the two seasons were a little bit farther apart, I would probably play both sports in college."

Young will only be playing college basketball at AIC next year.

It was the second year in a row that a member of the Granby girls soccer team was selected as the Division 4 girls Player of the Year.

"It's very special to see two of our players selected as the Player of the Year during the

past two years," said Granby head coach Bob Weaver. "I've coached Nora during the past four years and she really deserved to receive the award this year. She's a tremendous athlete and is a great kid. We're really going to miss her next year."

A member of the South Hadley girls soccer team, which captured the Division 3 state title last fall, also received the LAF Scholarship Award for the second consecutive year. Carla Jarrett was the scholarship recipient a year ago and Lindsay Marjanski was this year's scholarship award winner.

"It feels very nice to be re-



Samantha Breton was Chicopee Comp's representative at the event.

warded for all of the hard work that I've done," Marjanski said. "I'll be attending Holy Cross College and I'm very excited about it."

Just like Young, Marjanski will be playing a sport other than soccer at the collegiate level. She'll be a member of the Crusaders women's track and field team.

"I've already met the members of the team," she said. "I'm looking forward to becoming a member of the track and field team next year. Holy Cross was the perfect fit for me both academically and athletically."

Marjanski's main event is

high jump, but she will be able to do all of the events as a college freshman.

The other scholarship award winners are Robert Michalski (East Longmeadow H.S.), Erin Czelusniak (Lenox H.S.), and JT Novitsky (Lenox H.S.).

The members of the Division 1 girls first team are Emily DeGeorge (Agawam High School), Hope Santaniello (Agawam High School), Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown High School), and Brooke Samborski (Belchertown High School), Samantha Breton (Chicopee Comp

See **AWARDS** page 8

SOFTBALL

Western Mass. senior softball league seeks to start season on time

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

While many are hunkering down trying to wait out the coronavirus pandemic that was crippled regular life, and especially the sports world with no competitions of any kind due to the edict from state and federal officials barring gatherings of 25 people or more.

But the Western Mass. Relics, a softball league for senior citizens, is still planning to hold its season-opening jamboree on April 25.

Steve Lepow, the public relations director for the league, says the league has begun booking its field for play, and the Ludlow-based league, which draws plays from all over the region and into Connecticut, claims the field will be available come the start of the season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Western Mass. Relics, a senior softball league, play during last season. The softball league is still planning to begin play on April 25 amid coronavirus concerns.

"We lease the softball field from Fish and Game and we met the owner and posed the question about having to delay the start of the season," Lepow said. "He assured us the softball field

will be available to us even if the bar is closed because of the coronavirus."

The season starts on April

See **RELICS** page 8

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

MIAA: Spring sports postponed to April 27

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Following the first postponement of spring sports, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association made a subsequent vote to further delay the start of the spring sports to April 27.

The original start date of spring sports was March 16. It was delayed to March 30 when many schools began cancelling classes for two weeks due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The MIAA's Board of Directors were scheduled to meet again by teleconference this week to continue to monitor the situation. However, the March 20 teleconference revealed some decisions that became necessary by the continued postponement of spring sports.

The MIAA has agreed to only hold a postseason tourna-

ment is spring sports begins on April 27. If the MIAA has to make another postponement, then the tournaments in all spring sports will be cancelled and high schools will only play a modified schedule.

Additionally, there will not be any exceptions made to Rule 34, which dictates how many contests a team can have in a given week.

Depending on the sport, the number of competitions in a week can range from two to four. It modifies in the events make-ups are held, such as in the case of baseball or softball.

The board also voted unanimously to waive the 10-practice rule before competition can happen. The board voted to make it seven calendars from the start of practices.

See **SPORTS** page 8

Thompson reschedules events, Icebreaker event moved to May

THOMPSON, Conn. -- After conversations with all stakeholders, Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park announced on Tuesday the new date for the 46th annual Liquid Death Icebreaker weekend. The prestigious event is now tentatively set to take place May 15 and 16, including the headlining NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Death To Plastic 150.

Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the date is tentative, as the situation is fluid and changes are occurring across the motorsports industry daily. A full schedule for the event will be released once available.

The original date for the Liquid Death Icebreaker, April 3 to 5, was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but Thompson Speedway officials were committed to finding the right date and releasing it to the public as quickly as possible.

"After working with all of the different parties involved, we feel this is the best weekend to run the Icebreaker and

kick-off the Thompson racing season," Terry Eames, the General Manager of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, said. "Just like the entire racing community, we are disappointed that we can't start the race season as originally scheduled. However, we will continue to abide by our Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Orders and CDC suggestions during this time. We fully expect to begin the season with the Icebreaker, May 15-16, and look forward to seeing everyone back at the track soon."

The health of our valued race teams, fans, staff and customers is paramount during the COVID-19 outbreak. We have cleaned the property thoroughly to do our part to stop the spread of the virus and will continue to do so in the future.

For more information on Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, visit thompsonspeedway.com and follow the track on social media.

Valley Wheel Baseball looking for new players for 2020 season

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season, which is set to begin near the end of April. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early

May. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be taking place in the early weeks of April, weather permitting, with a draft following the tryouts.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Western Mass. Relics, a senior softball league, play during last season. The softball league is still planning to begin play on April 25 amid coronavirus concerns.

RELICS from page 7

25 with a jamboree of modified games with the regular season beginning on April 27.

"Full games are supposed to happen on April 27," said Lepow. "We play seven inning games with two divisions. The silver division is for 50 to 65-year-olds and the gold division is for ages 65 and older. Our oldest player is 89-years-old."

The purpose of the league is to have fun and build friendships.

Lepow said regardless of where the pandemic stands, the league does plan to forego typical hand-shaking lines post game.

"We will eliminate hand-shaking lines after the game and fist bumps," said Lepow. "We have safety rules to prevent contact such as two first base bags (orange for the runner and white for the fielder.

We also have a screen for the pitchers circle to protect the pitcher."

Lepow says player safety will be a top concern.

"Safety is our number one concern," said Lepow. In addition to the things to the hand-shaking, we are asking any player who is sick not to come. We are also providing wipes or other sanitizers to use on bats. On our website we have information constantly being added to keep players advised on what we are doing to ensure safety."

The commissioner of the league recently emailed players asking them to use common sense and announce that the season is still on.

The league's only opposition could come at the local, state, or federal level if the games are not exempted from the gathering restrictions that have been made.

AWARDS from page 7

High School), Emily Howard (Minnechaug Regional), Rhiann Ryan (Minnechaug Regional), and Katherine Russell (Minnechaug Regional).

The members of the Division 1 boys first team are Nate Mateus (Agawam High School), Connor Montagna (Agawam High School), Mamadi Jiana (Chicopee High School), Brennan Dort (Chicopee High School), Anthony Quiteiro (Ludlow High School), Michael Riley (Ludlow High School), and Michael Tuck Jr. (Ludlow High School).

The members of the Division 3 girls first team are Madelyn Doolittle (South Hadley High School), Anna Evans (South Hadley High School), Teagan Gawron (South Hadley High School), Lindsay Marjanski (South Hadley High School), Paige Marjanski (South Hadley High School), Bridget Sears (South Hadley

High School), Tennessee Murphy (Monson High School), Alivia Skowyra (Monson High School), and Madalyn Theriault (Palmer High School).

The members of the Division 3 boys first team are Owen Raines (Belchertown High School), Zach Lajeunesse (Belchertown High School), Korey Houle (Belchertown High School), and Ethan Czaprowski (Belchertown High School).

The members of the Division 4 girls first team are Julia Frappier (Granby High School), Nora Young (Granby High School), Julia Gauvin (Granby High School), Emily Vallee (Granby High School), and Caitlin Hess (Ware High School).

The members of the Division 4 boys first team are Logan Gerry (Monson High School), Shawn Jalbert (Monson High School), and Prescott Watson (Monson High School).

SPORTS from page 7

The maximum number of competitions was also modified to 12 for most sports for tournament participation. A team must have at least eight contests for postseason participation.

A typical baseball or softball schedule is normally 18 to 20 games, while lacrosse and volleyball compete in 16 to 18 contests.

According to the board of directors, there is a movement to try and keep student-athletes from missing their senior season, especially after the state tournament was interrupted for basketball and hockey.

"Based on the charge from the BOD to have a spring sport season start date of April 27," the board minutes state. "Discussion regarding a timeline for post-season play took place. The Tournament Management Committee is committed to allow for broad participation at all levels this spring. Keeping student-athletes connected, involved and engaged has meaning and purpose after the challenges

that were faced at the end of the winter season and spring sports in general."

School districts across the state have been ordered closed through April 7. That order was made by Gov. Charlie Baker. Baker has not made a decision or set a deadline to revisit that closure and whether or not to extend it.

The MIAA has posted a fluid document on its website answering questions about the current situation. The document is considered fluid and is updated when new developments occur.

The MIAA has specifically stated that no sports can be practice or played prior to April 27. Additionally, coaches unable to interact with their players before that date.

The MIAA plans to provide guidance on health and safety guidelines for spring sports if there are still concerns about the coronavirus when schools resume competition.

The board was scheduled to meet Tuesday morning with an update to be publish after that meeting.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE
By Ma. Gen Laws c.255, Sec. 39A, **CHUCK’S TOWING**, 78 West St., Chicopee, MA is holding a private sale for a vehicle **April 2, 2020 at 2:00 PM** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses of notices of sale.
1999 Honda Accord
VIN# 1HGCG3159XA027305
Owner: Jonathan Mejias
Date of Tow: 7-15-19
3/12, 3/19, 3/26/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **April 9, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles. .

1995 CHEVROLET TAHOE
VIN: 3GNEK18K0SG103954
JOSEPH HALL
1040 N PLEASANT ST
AMHERST, MA 01002
2003 FORD ESCAPE
VIN: 1FMYU93103KD98234
PAUL LEVEQUE
188 CONDORD ST #6
NASHUA, NH 03064

2003 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN: 2T1BR32E63C004508
AMBRIE GREEN
63 FREW RUN RD
FREWBURG, NY 14738

2005 ACURA TL
VIN: 19UUA65505A061566
CLAUDE KERLEY
2873 GROVE HILL RD
FRANKLINTON, NC 27525

2005 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4AL11D65N415343
JULIO OTERO
725 UNION ST APT A
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

2006 CHRYSLER SEBRING
VIN: 1C3EL56R46N157756
HECTOR MONTILLA-SEGURA
267 S 2ND ST
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740

2006 JEEP LIBERTY
VIN: 1J4GL48K46W236282
RONY LOPEZ NIZ
211 MAIN ST APT 2
NATICK, MA 01760

2006 MERCEDES BENZ E350

VIN: WDBUF87J66X208668
KRYSTAL BARTON
1 JORDAN ST APT C
ADAMS, MA 01220

2008 HYUNDAI SONOTA
VIN: 5NPEU46C18H352683
CHARLES NIELSEN M JR
485 ROGERS AVE
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089

2008 PONTIAC TORRENT
VIN: 2CKDL537686285328
JOHN VANCINI
99 MAY RD
LUDLOW, MA 01056

2009 AUDI A4
VIN: WAULF78K19A129279
KAROL CATTORI
624 HARRINTON RD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

2009 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4CL21E19C187146
DAWN GILARDI
19 BLAKE ST
METHUEN, MA 01844

2012 HONDA CIVIC
VIN: JHMFB4F38CS004043
GRACI VANIA & DEAN DROBIS
19 CARLSON RD
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702

2017 FORD EXPLORER
VIN: 1FMCU9G95HUB70851
LIMOLINER, LLC
154 MAPLE ST
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
3/26, 4/02, 4/09/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0488EA
Estate of:
Joseph Maciejewski
Date of Death: 12/31/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Daniel Lengieza** of Hampden MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Daniel Lengieza** of Hampden MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an

unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/06/2020**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 09, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/26/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0537EA
Estate of:
Linda Marie Menard
Date of Death: 01/01/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed

by: **Carrie C Choquette** of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Carrie C Choquette** of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on **04/10/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 13, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/26/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hamden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P0457GD**

In the interests of Pearl A Brazee Of Chicopee, MA Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for **Appointment of Guardian of a Minor** filed on **03/05/2020** by **Angela P Breault-Klusman** of Chicopee, MA will be held **04/09/2020 08:15 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**
2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: March 5, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/26/2020

**Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P0455GD**
In the interests of Steven M Breault Of Chicopee, MA Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for **Appointment of Guardian of a Minor** filed on **03/05/2020** by **Angela P Breault-Klusman** of Chicopee, MA will be held **04/09/2020 08:15 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**
2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: March 5, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
3/26/2020

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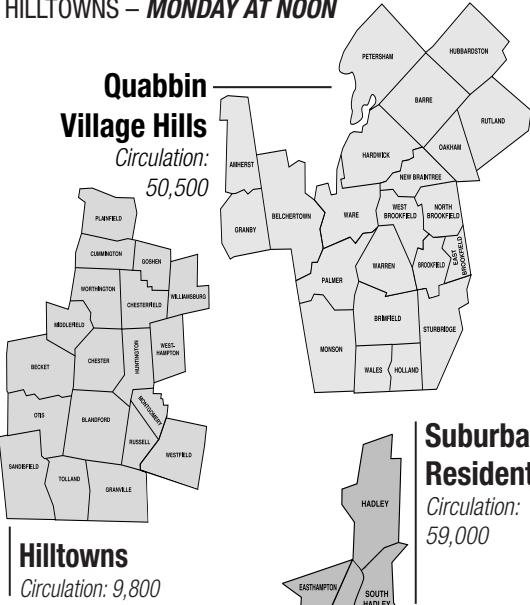
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STCC unveils Fire Investigation Transfer program locally

SPRINGFIELD – Starting this fall, Springfield Technical Community College will offer a new option in the Fire Protection and Safety Technology Department: Fire Investigation Transfer.

Students who choose this option will study fire behavior, fire operations, prevention, investigations and criminal law through courses in fire science and criminal justice.

“We’re thrilled to offer this option, which will prepare students to continue their education toward a bachelor’s degree in fire investigation, homeland security or fire science, based on their desired area of interest,” said Julian “Skip” Tenczar, chair of the Fire Protection and Safety Technology Department.

Fire investigators often work for local, state and federal agencies, but also pursue opportunities in the private sector.

According to Tenczar, fire investigators need a sharp eye, dedicated commit-

ment to discovering the truth and the professional integrity to follow their findings through the legal system.

“The Fire Investigation program at STCC can open doors to this exciting field where you can make a difference,” Tenczar said.

The program is offered in the evening only, which will give students who work more flexibility, Tenczar said.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs are expected to grow by 8 percent between 2018 and 2028 for fire inspectors and investigators. The median pay in 2018 was \$60,200.

Students who successfully complete the two-year program will receive an Associate in Science in Fire Protection and Safety Technology.

To learn more about the program and to apply for the fall, visit stcc.edu/explore/programs/fitr.as/.



STCC will offer a new Fire Investigation Transfer program this fall. Pictured are two Springfield Fire Department firefighters.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

COVID from page 1

and Prevention urge all to practice social distancing to help flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections. Social, or physical, distancing is the recommendation to keep a minimum of six feet of separation between others.

Officials also encourage frequent hand-washing with hot, soapy water for a minimum of 20 seconds, coughing into a tissue or elbow (not hands), and staying home as much as possible – especially when sick with flu-like symptoms.

According to information available online at mass.gov, COVID-19 is a new respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Most infected with the virus recover and experience only mild symptoms. In some, like the elderly and those who may have compromised immune systems, severe

symptoms like pneumonia may develop.

Symptoms, according to the CDC, may develop between two and 14 days after exposure. The CDC advises folks seek immediate medical attention if they experience such symptoms as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, and/or bluish lips or face.

Nationwide, according to CDC data March 23, there are 33,404 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 400 deaths. The virus has been detected in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In Massachusetts, the Department of Public Health reports as of March 22, there are 646 cases of the virus and five deaths.

Of those confirmed, 112 were between the ages of 30 and 39; 134 were between the ages of 40 and 49; and 119 were between 50 and 59-years-old.

All City Hall departments will still offer customer service through phone calls and online access. Chicopee will maintain all essential functions, including emergency responders and trash and recycling programs. Residents are encouraged to conduct business remotely using U.S. postal, email, websites and dropboxes.

Chicopee Parks will remain open but additional actions are being implemented, including the removal of basketball hoops, to reduce the congregation of more than 10 people. Individuals encountering urgent and time-sensitive situations should contact the Mayor’s office at 413-594-1500.

For more information on the coronavirus across the state, visit mass.gov or dial 2-1-1.

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